

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Amended) A nasal cannula for delivering a breathable gas mixture comprising helium and oxygen to a patient, the nasal cannula comprising a length of ~~high-pressure narrow-bore~~ tubing having a proximal end region for connection to a high pressure source of the pressure breathable gas mixture at a pressure in the range of 100 bar to 300 bar and a distal end region connected to at least one nasal administration device comprising a nasal prong or pair of nasal prongs formed with a plurality of perforations, wherein the nasal administration device or the distal end region of the tubing has at least one orifice for the expansion of the breathable gas mixture.

Claim 2 (Amended) The nasal cannula according to claim 1, wherein the ~~high pressure narrow-bore~~ tubing is coiled.

Claim 3 (Amended) The nasal cannula according to claim 1 wherein the ~~high pressure narrow-bore~~ tubing is of a ductile metal or alloy.

Claim 4 (Previously amended) The nasal cannula according to claim 3, wherein the alloy is a cupro-nickel alloy.

Claim 5 (Amended) The nasal cannula according to claim 1, wherein the ~~high pressure narrow-bore~~ tubing is surrounded by a protective sheath.

Claim 6 (Cancelled)

Claim 7 (Amended) An apparatus for administering a breathable gas mixture comprising helium and oxygen including means for supplying the breathable gas mixture at a high pressure and a nasal cannula comprising a length of ~~high pressure narrow bore~~ tubing having a proximal end region for connection to a high pressure source of the breathable gas mixture at a pressure in the range of 100 bar to 300 bar and a distal end region connected to at least one nasal administration device comprising a nasal prong or pair of nasal prongs formed with a plurality of perforations, wherein the nasal administration device or the distal end region of the tubing has at least one orifice for the expansion of the breathable gas mixture.

Claim 8 (Previously amended) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the said means includes a gas cylinder in which the breathable gas mixture is stored under pressure.

Claim 9 (Previously amended) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the stored breathable gas mixture contains from 70 to 80% by volume of helium and from 20 to 30% by volume of oxygen.

Claim 10 (Previously amended) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the stored breathable gas mixture is stored in the cylinder at a pressure in the range of 100 bar to 300 bar.

Claim 11 (Previously amended) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the stored breathable gas mixture contains 72% by volume of helium, balance oxygen.